

CAACS GLOBE

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School 5th Grade visits Morgan Stanley Bank



On Friday, May 10, 2019, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School sent both of its 5th grade classes to visit Morgan Stanley bank headquarters in Time Square. This extended learning experience was the 3rd installment of a workshop lead by Dean Sadek, a banker at Morgan Stanley. The workshops introduced our 5th graders to the concepts of entrepreneurship, starting a business, planning for business growth, the decisions and assumptions that are made when a business goes public, and how buying and selling stocks works.

The day at Morgan Stanley followed a well thought out schedule. Some highlights of the tour included our scholars visiting the trading floor and engaging in a mock IPO session. It was an exciting day to be at

Morgan Stanley, as the car service company, Uber, was going public that very day!

Upon returning to school, our fifth graders began work on their 5th inquiry unit with the theme: *How we organize ourselves*. The central idea is inspired by the Morgan Stanley workshops and reads as follows, *"Entrepreneurs must research and plan in order to have success with earning money from investors."* At the end of May, our scholars will be presenting their projects for this 5th inquiry unit. Each scholar will create a business plan and short advertisement that they will pitch to a panel of 4-5 deans (sharks) that will emulate the popular television program, *Shark Tank*.

VOL. 7, MAY 2019

4th Grade's Body Systems Exhibit



Read about how at CAACS we build knowledge and curiosity in our central ideas while simultaneously teaching ELA test prep strategies in grades 2-5.

2

5th grade Activist Monologues



5th grade classes researched activists throughout history primarily focusing on children's rights, civil rights, and women's suffrage.

3

Leadership Day



Our school welcomes the community to see examples of scholar leadership including LIM inspired dances from each class.

4

Shakespeare's Julius Caesar



Our 5th graders perform William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar after months of practice to a large in-school audience and wow us with their reflections.

5

2nd Grade Law Projects



4th and 5th graders from CAACS placed high at the 2019 Great American Debate League Spring Classic Tournament.

6

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man (or woman) healthy, wealthy, and wise." -Benjamin Franklin



5th grade scholars present at Morgan Stanley bank on Friday, May 10, 2019.

4th Graders Create Body Systems Exhibit for First Health Fair

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School held a Health Fair for the residents of our surrounding communities. This was our first endeavor with a health fair, and we were amazed at the turnout. We had more than 200 people - adults and children - plus representatives from local organizations dedicated to the health and wellbeing of our community.



The Health Fair was organized by our school nurses: Claudia Irving and Melisha Wilson, and our Data and Analytics specialist, Ricardo Jefferson. The health fair was the cumulating event of a health week that encouraged our scholars and staff to improve their nutrition and commitments to exercise. Health insurance provider, Well Care, was our number one sponsor for the event.

The event Saturday included face painting, a bouncy house, soccer,

basketball, free groceries donated by the local pantry, free blood pressure and hypertension testing provided by volunteers from Brookdale hospital, free dental checks for children, music and dancing provided by our own DJ Addition (Professor Joseph), healthy sandwiches, salads and watermelon, and a body system exhibit created by our fourth grade scholars.



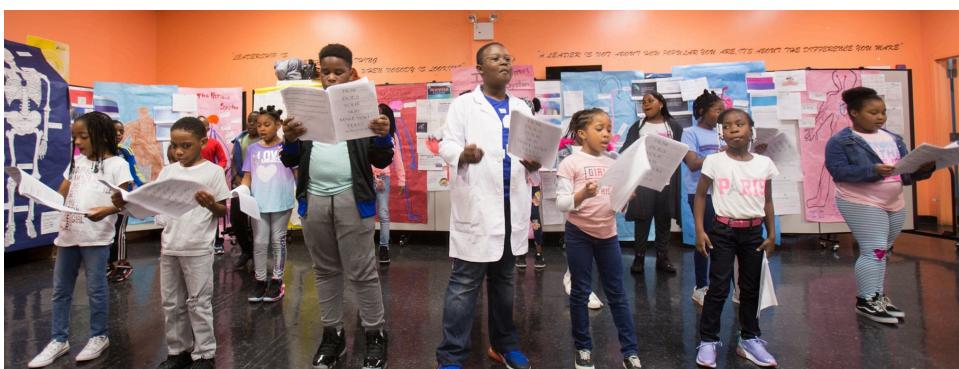
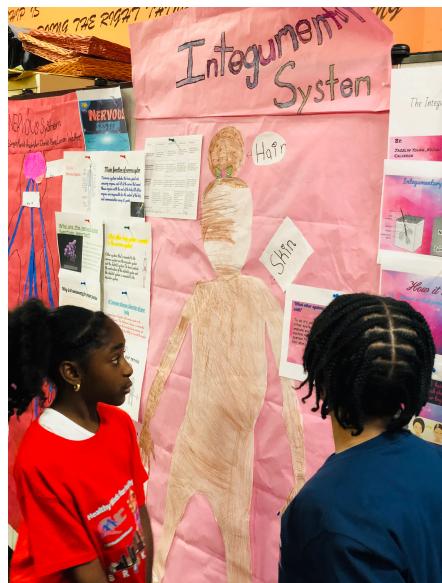
Our fourth grader classes have been studying the theme, *Who we are*, with a central idea that states: *Human bodies are made up of systems*. Our fourth grade scholars learned about each body system in class, then chose a body system to study more in depth. Scholars utilized Google chrome book computers to research information about their body system. Scholars worked collaboratively to create a 10 slide Power Point detailing the many components of the body system. Scholars then traced one group member to make life-size body system diagrams that were put on display at the health fair.

During the health fair, 4th grade scholars, stood next to their displays and offered explanations and answered questions, as the community was invited to take a



gallery walk that resembled the bodies exhibition.

The gallery walk directly followed a dramatic performance, lead by Professor Walcott. The dramatic performance was a spoken word performance that included scholars of all grades. The name of the spoken word performance was "*The Skin I'm in*," and it addressed the issue of mental health and body image confidence in our community.



5th Graders Perform Monologues as Activists for Rights

Our 5th grade scholars concluded their unit 4 inquiry, studying through the lens of the theme: Who we are, with the central idea: People have advocated for our rights and responsibilities.

Scholars wondered about specific activists in history who advocated for causes they deemed important to them like women's rights, children rights and civil rights. After extensive research that included reading original speeches and other primary sources, our scholars drafted monologues inspired by their activist of study. For

their summative project, our 5th grade scholars finalized their monologues, practiced in the classroom and created costumes. Finally, on Thursday, May 9, 2019 our 5th grade scholars daunted their activist costumes and performed their monologues for their peers, faculty and parents. Professor McBride and Professor Pepper evaluated the summative monologues with a rubric and scholars gave feedback on the overall unit in the form of reflections the following day.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (top), Huey Newton and Bobby Seale (bottom left) and Malala Yousafzai (bottom right).



1st Graders Research and Create Weather Projects

Our first grade scholars concluded their 4th unit of inquiry, studying the theme: *How the world works*, with the central idea: *Humans can identify weather patterns in different places and plan accordingly*.

Scholars wondered about different elements of weather and formed inquiry questions. Wonderings included examples



like, "I wonder how snow happens in nature?" and "I wonder how storms are made on Jupiter?"

Next, the scholars of Brooklyn College were provided with I-pads that were linked to videos they could view that answered their questions. Scholars viewed the videos, specific to their question, and recorded the information in a note-taking graphic organizer. Our first grade scholars were eager and enthusiastic to use technology in the classroom, view videos specific to their curiosities, and to record the interesting information. Even upon completing their research, scholars reflected and expressed their joy of utilizing the technology in a meaningful way.

Once the scholars recorded all of their research, it was time to give them an opportunity to create and



take action. Each scholar was provided with a poster board, art materials and their research notes. Scholars then created posters that they would present to the class.

Leadership Day

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School is unique in that it doubles as both an authorized International Baccalaureate school and also is designated as a Franklin Covey Leader in Me Lighthouse School. Cultural Arts Academy was the first charter school in New York City to receive the prestigious Lighthouse designation in 2017. One school tradition that exemplifies our Lighthouse School status is our annual Leadership Day.

On Wednesday, March 15, 2019, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School hosted its 5th annual Leadership Day. Leadership Day is an enjoyable event for our entire school community when we open our doors to families to come experience the benefits of teaching our scholars to live Stephen Covey's 7 Habits for Highly

Effective Children.

Families were greeted in the morning by our scholar ambassadors. These scholars are selected for their advanced leadership skills and commitment to the 7 Habits. Our scholar ambassadors first lead our visitors to our Makerspace where they reviewed student work, had refreshments, and viewed a video presentation.

Next, our scholar ambassadors lead our guest visitors through classroom tours. Finally, it was time

for presentations from each University (class) in our school. The common theme in the performances was the language



of the 7 Habits and included much dancing as well as poetry and dramatic skits. The event was lead by our own Dean Redmond and featured keynote speakers: 2016 CAACS graduate, Aronde Ageday and NOBLE Mentor, Karen Smith-Moore.

The Leader in Me™

great happens here



Cotillion Beautillion: A 5th Grade Rite of Passage

A rite of passage is a ceremony that marks the transition from one phase of life to another. The tumultuous transition from adolescence to adulthood is just one of life's many rites of passage. At Cultural Arts Academy Charter School, we recognize the importance of honoring the transition from elementary to middle school as an important rite of passage for our 5th grade scholars.

On Friday, May 24, 2019, CAACS hosted its 5th annual COBO for our 5th grade scholars and their families. COBO stands for Cotillion Beautillion, which refers to a social dance that honors a rite of passage.

The Cotillion Beautillion has a long history beginning with French royalty in the 1800s, evolving to be a custom for the southern US families with great

wealth and affluence. It would eventually be adopted by some wealthy African American communities in the 20th century. Our school community first adopted the COBO in 2015 for our first graduating class.

This formal event presents our 5th grade scholars as young ladies and young men who exemplify poise, leadership, and academic excellence within their school and community. Additionally, this event fosters the educational goals of our middle school-bound scholars by giving those who have demonstrated exemplary moral standards and school involvement the opportunity to showcase high society etiquette and socialization skills. These activities are designed to enhance their personal growth as they transition into young adulthood.

The 2019 COBO had a Latin America inspired theme. Our scholars were first introduced, then danced the grand GALA with our signature centerpiece, The Grand Waltz, for all of their family and friends as they welcome the Debutante and Gentleman as polished, poised and prepared members of society.



5th Grade Performs Shakespeare's Julius Caesar

"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."

On Friday, May 21st 2019, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School's Visual and Performing Arts Team, in collaboration with the Theatre for a New Audience, presented our 5th grade scholars for an in-school performance of selected scenes from William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The performance occurred at 9:45am in our makerspace. Our scholars were lead by Mr. Albert Iturregui Elias, who taught our 5th grade scholars 12 workshops to introduce them to the work of William Shakespeare and prepare them to act out the scenes from Julius Caesar.

During the performance, our 5th grade scholars shined in their ability to pronounce the Old English. What was perhaps the most impressive, were the oral reflections given by our fifth graders when posed with critical thinking questions from the audience about relating themes to modern times.



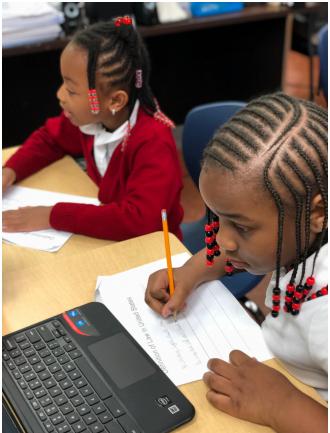
Front row depicted from left to right: Dean Jones, Mr. Albert, and Professor Walcott.



National Teacher Appreciation week fell on May 6th - May 10th this year, and our Parent Association at Cultural Arts Academy Charter School took action to ensure our teachers felt valued. A sumptuous staff appreciation breakfast was provided on the morning of May 9th in our Family Resource Center. Our teachers also received a catered lunch earlier in the week. Principal Midgette also acknowledged this week by presenting her instructional team with certificates and a fun highlight video.

2nd Grade's Law Projects

Our second grade classes, Yale and Juilliard Universities have worked rigorously to research and create power point presentations that



scholar selected a law they were curious about studying after doing a class brainstorm. Scholar selections included examples like traffic laws, tax laws, and trespassing laws.

Next, after forming their wonder wall questions, scholars were grouped with their peers to synergize in the research and creating of their presentation. The groups were made so that scholars could work collaboratively researching the law of their shared interest.

answer the questions posted on their wonder walls. The theme for their fourth inquiry unit is: *Who we are*, and the central idea is: *We are given rights, but are also required to follow rules and fulfill responsibilities*. Each

During their research and creating of Google Slide (Power Point) presentations, our second grade scholars received adult support as they learned to capitalize letters using the shift

button on the keyboard and other nuisances required to use Google search engine and Google Slides.

After completing their presentations, scholars in Juilliard University delivered their Google Slide presentations to their class in our Makerspace and impressed with their expert knowledge on the law topic of their choice.



Pajama Party

On Friday, May 10th 2019, our Parents Association organized another successful event: A Pajama Party! Members of our parent association worked hard to decorate our Makerspace for the party. Some of the decorations came out so lovely that we kept them up during our Scholastic Book Fair the following week.

The Pajama party included food, drinks, and dancing. Both children and adults alike donned their favorite PJs and came out to support our school and had a good time!



CAACS GLOBE

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School
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Cultural Arts Academy Charter School's Attendance

CAACS Attendance Rate for April 2019: 96.5%
CAACS Attendance Rate for May 2019: 97.6%